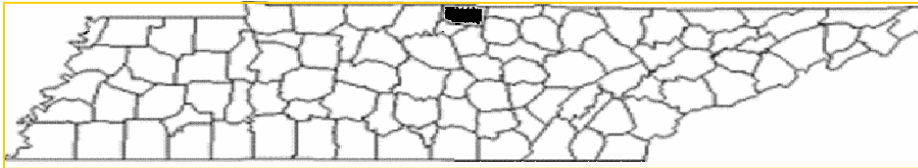


The Status of Women in Macon County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN MACON COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	48.4.	49
Women's Annual Earnings	\$20,087	71
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	71.3%	52
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	43.0%	35
Female Unemployment Rate	6.3%	51
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	28.5%	33
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	57.63	71
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	12.8%	84
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	10.3%	44
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	61.9%	87
Female High School Dropout Rate	8.6%	64
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	92.3%	41
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	16.9%	60
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	7.0%	16
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	37.1	65

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Macon County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

MACON

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ Women in Macon County have median annual earnings of \$20,087 while their male counterparts have median earnings of \$28,170.
- ◇ Macon is among the top 35 counties in female labor force participation rate, but there are still only 43 percent of women working.
- ◇ The female unemployment rate is 6.3% in Macon County while the overall county unemployment rate is 5.0%.
- ◇ Women working in managerial or professional occupations make up 28.5% of the female workforce; 17.0% of all workers from Macon County are employed in those fields.

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ 61.9% of women in the county have a high-school diploma or equivalency while 60.2% of all county residents have such a degree. 10.3% of women in the county have a four-year college degree while just 5.6% of county residents have at least a bachelor's degree.
- ◇ The female high school dropout rate is 8.6% and the percentage of both men and women with high school degrees is significantly lower than the percentage of all Tennesseans with such a degree (75.9%).
- ◇ Almost 8 percent of women in Macon County have no form of health insurance coverage, and about 17 percent of working women earn wages below the poverty level.
- ◇ Though 11.3% of families live in poverty in the county, that percentage rises to 28.1% for families with a female householder and no husband present.
- ◇ Women-owned businesses represent 12.8% of all private firms in the county but they only account for 9.8% of the total sales and receipts of privately-owned companies.
- ◇ 51.8% of eligible voters in Macon County are women but women hold only about twenty percent of all elected county positions.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

MACON

Macon County

		Macon County	Rank of Macon County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$20,087	71	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	71.3%	52	Davidson: 82.1%
Employment	Female Labor Force Participation Rate	43.0%	35	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	63.0%	51	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Females in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	28.5%	33	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	12.8%	84	Moore: 63.3%
Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	10.3%	44	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equivalency)	61.9%	87	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	8.6%	64	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%
Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Coverage	92.3%	41	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	16.9%	60	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	7.0%	16	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	37.1	65	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Macon County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties